

Proposed claim amendments for future response to Final Office Action

As we discussed earlier today the following is a proposed amendment to the claims for a future response to the pending final office action. Please review. I will call you Monday 26 April 2004 to discuss. Thanks.

I propose amending independent claims 1, 10 and 16 as shown in the complete list of claims below.

1. A multiple use box with security feature comprising:
 - a plurality of sides connected to each other such that each side is connected to at least two other sides and defines an interior of the box;
 - a first top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from a first side of the plurality of sides and pivoted toward the interior;
 - a second top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from a second side of the plurality of sides and pivoted toward the interior;
 - a third top flap extending from a third side of the plurality of sides and pivoted toward the interior;
 - a fourth top flap extending from a fourth side of the plurality of sides and pivoted toward the interior;
 - wherein the attachment strip of the first top flap is attachable to the third top flap to enclose an item in the box keep the box closed during a use and the tear strip of the first top flap is operable to release the third top flap to open the box; and
 - wherein the attachment strip of the second top flap is attachable to the fourth top flap to enclose an item in the box a second time keep the box closed during another use and the tear strip of the second top flap is operable to release the fourth top flap to open the box a second time.
2. The box of claim 1 wherein at least two of the sides are glued to each other.

3. The box of claim 1 wherein the box includes four sides that form a square interior.
4. The box of claim 1 wherein each attachment strip is attached to a respective one of the third and fourth top flaps to keep the box closed during one use of the box.
5. The box of claim 1 wherein the box includes four sides that form a square interior, and each top flap includes an attachment strip and a tear strip.
6. The box of claim 1 wherein at least one of the attachment strips is double-sided tape.
7. The box of claim 1 wherein at least one of the attachment strips is a single strip located along a distal end of a respective one of the top flaps and that extends the width of the respective top flap.
8. The box of claim 1 wherein at least one of the tear strips is formed by perforating a portion of a respective one of the top flaps.
9. The box of claim 1 wherein at least one of the attachment strips is located along a distal end of a respective one of the top flaps and extends the width of the respective top flap, and the respective tear strip is located adjacent the attachment strip between the respective side and the attachment strip.
10. A blank that can be formed into a box that provides an indication of tampering when used a second or more times, comprising:
 - a plurality of sections connected to each other and operable to form the box when pivoted relative to each other; and
 - a first top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from a third section of the plurality of sections and operable to close the box when pivoted relative to the third section;
 - a second top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from a fourth section of the plurality of sections and operable to close the box when pivoted relative to the fourth section;

a third top flap extending from a first section of the plurality of sections and operable to close the box when pivoted relative to the first section;

a fourth top flap extending from a second section of the plurality of sections and operable to close the box when pivoted relative to the second section;

wherein, when the box is formed, the attachment strip of the first top flap is attachable to the third top flap to enclose an item in the box ~~keep the box closed during a use~~ and the tear strip of the first top flap is operable to release the third top flap to open the box; and

wherein, when the box is formed, the attachment strip of the second top flap is attachable to the fourth top flap to enclose an item in the box a second time ~~keep the box closed during another use~~ and the tear strip of the second top flap is operable to release the fourth top flap to open the box a second time.

11. (Cancelled)

12. The blank of claim 10 wherein:

the first section is connected to the second section;

the third section is connected to the second section opposite the first section;
and

the fourth section is connected to the third section opposite the second section.

13. The blank of claim 10 wherein at least one of the attachment strips is double-sided tape.

14. The blank of claim 10 wherein at least one of the tear strips is formed by perforating a portion of the respective top flap.

15. The blank of claim 10 wherein at least one of the attachment strips is located along a distal end of a respective one of the top flaps and extends the width of the respective top flap, and the respective tear strip is located adjacent the attachment strip between the respective section and the attachment strip.

16. A method of using a box two or more times to ship items, comprising:
 - attaching an attachment strip of a first top flap of the box to a third top flap to enclose an item in the box; ~~close the box;~~
 - removing a tear strip of the first top flap to separate the attachment strip of the first top flap from the first top flap and open the box; and
 - attaching an attachment strip of a second top flap of the box to a fourth top flap to enclose an item in the box a second time. ~~close the box again.~~
17. The method of claim 16 wherein using the box one time includes attaching the attachment strip of the first top flap of the box to the third top flap, and attaching the attachment strip of the second top flap of the box to the fourth top flap to close the box.
18. The method of claim 16 further comprising removing a tear strip of the second top flap to separate the attachment strip of the second top flap from the second top flap and open the box again.
19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:
 - attaching an attachment strip of the third top flap of the box to the first top flap to close the box again; and
 - removing a tear strip of the third top flap to separate the attachment strip of the third top flap from the third top flap and open the box again.
20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
 - attaching an attachment strip of the fourth top flap of the box to the second top flap to close the box again; and
 - removing a tear strip of the fourth top flap to separate the attachment strip of the fourth top flap from the fourth top flap and open the box again.
21. A multiple use box with security feature comprising:
 - a plurality of sides connected to each other such that each side is connected to at least two other sides and defines an interior of the box;

a first top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from one of the sides and pivoted toward the interior;

a second top flap including an attachment strip and a tear strip, and extending from one of the other sides and pivoted toward the interior;

wherein the attachment strip of the first top flap is attachable to the second top flap to keep the box closed and the tear strip of the first top flap is operable to release the second top flap; and

wherein the attachment strip of the second top flap is attachable to the first top flap to keep the box closed during a subsequent use of the box and the tear strip of the second top flap is operable to release the first top flap.

22. The box of claim 21 wherein each attachment strip is attached to the first and second top flaps to keep the box closed during one use of the box.
23. The box of claim 21 wherein the box includes four sides that form a square interior.